

REMARKS

This Amendment amends claim 13. Claims 8 - 27 are pending in the present application.

The Office Action rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written restriction requirement

With respect to the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, the Office Action notes: that claim 13 recites that: "the foot portion of the holding pin has a constant transverse extent" and that this is unsupported by the specification in that the specification also states that shanks 8, 9 have "enormous diameter elasticity." The Final Office Action states that, for purposes of examination, claim 13 is considered as reciting a constant *nominal* transverse extent.

This Amendment amends claim 13 to recite a constant *nominal* transverse extent. Claim 13 as now amended recites that "...the foot portion of the holding pin has a constant nominal transverse extent."

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is now overcome and request entry of the present amendment on the grounds that the present application will be in better condition for appeal. An Appeal Brief that addresses the remaining final rejections of the pending claims 8 – 27 accompanies this Amendment.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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